



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q76339

Hideki KOBAYASHI

Appln. No.: 10/618,711

Group Art Unit: 2655

Confirmation No.: 2655

Examiner: Tawfik A. Goma

Filed: July 15, 2003

For: INFORMATION RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND INFORMATION
REPRODUCING METHOD

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 20, 2006, the Examiner contends that the present application contains the following species:

- Species A - which is drawn to Figures 1 and 2;
- Species B - which is drawn to Figures 3 and 4;
- Species C - which is drawn to Figures 5 and 6;
- Species D - which is drawn to Figure 7; and
- Species E - which is drawn to Figure 8.

Applicants elect Species B (Figs. 3 and 4) with traverse. Also, Applicants submit that at least claims 1 and 5 read on the elected species.

With respect to the traversal of the election, Applicants submit that Figs. 3 and 7 illustrate devices that utilize a method that detects an address. Fig. 3 implements this method via

hardware, and Fig. 7 implements this method via hardware and software. Moreover, examining the methods and devices relating to Figs. 3 and 7 would not create an undue burden for the Examiner.

Also, Figs. 5 and 8 illustrate devices that utilize another method that detects an address. Fig. 5 implements this method via hardware, and Fig. 8 implements this method via hardware and software. Moreover, examining the methods and devices relating to Figs. 5 and 8 would not create an undue burden for the Examiner.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 7 should belong to the same species as Fig. 3 and that Fig. 8 should belong to the same species as Fig. 5.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Fig. 3 is a generic diagram that encompasses the device shown in Fig. 5 and that Fig. 7 is a generic diagram that encompasses the device shown in Fig. 8. Thus, the species including Figs. 3 and 7 should also include Figs. 5 and 8.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Species B-E be regrouped into a single species including Fig. 3-8. Also, examining the methods and devices relating to Figs. 3-8 would not create an undue burden for the Examiner.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,



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